

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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April 15 tax filing deadline nears

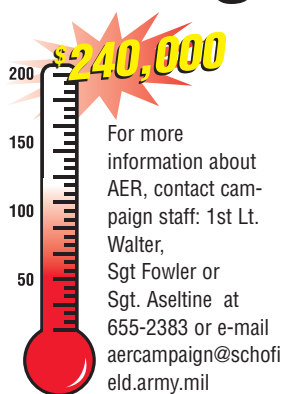
Time is running out to complete 2004 federal and state taxes before the April 15 deadline. However, the Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Tax Centers are open to assist Soldiers, their family members, Reservists and retirees.

Call the Schofield Tax Center at 655-5144 or Fort Shafter at 438-2829 for more information.



HECO Marathon
Army wins in electric car speed race
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AER gets \$6K on-the-spot donation



Key leader involvement is way to reach unit goals

By Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

Real-world operational and training missions occupy Army units all over the world. One task they share is fund collection for the 2005 Army Emergency Relief Fund Campaign that ends April 14.

One unit actively engaged in the AER fund-raising task here is the 45th Corps Support Group. The group's commander, Col. Stanley Q. Tunstall

Sr., addressed more than 50 group leaders at an AER breakfast held at the group's dining facility March 23.

"The reason we are here this morning is because you are a key leader within the 45th CSG. Things don't happen without you as leaders – key leaders – making it happen," said Tunstall, adding, "I am asking you to go back to your units and tell your Soldiers about the importance of AER."

Last year the group raised more than \$21,000 in spite of the large numbers of deployed troops. This year, with many Soldiers still deployed, 1st Lt. Margaret Marcello, unit AER proj-

ect officer, is optimistic that the group will meet and exceed last year's efforts.

"At two weeks into the campaign, we are at \$11,000," she said, emphasizing, "and, that figure is mainly from only two of our battalions."

Another reason for optimism, last week 29th Engineer Battalion Soldiers, based at Fort Shafter, donated \$6,000 — on the spot — during the battalion formation providing them with AER information.

Tunstall cited the battalion's success as an indicator of how important key leaders are to a successful AER. See "AER" Page A-7

Yummy!



Joy Boisselle

TC Kirkendall digs in for one more bite during the spam-eating contest at the Extreme Teen Challenge held at the Tropics March 23. See the full story on page B-4.

JCS seeks to prepare today's military for future challenges

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

One of the hardest parts of transforming the military is the lack of a clear picture of the challenges it will face, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a recent interview.

"The transformation of the United States military [today] is to get us ready for what's around the next corner," said Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers. "And this is difficult, because we don't know what's around the next corner."

The chairman said that while the United States may not know specifically where the next threat will come from, "we know that the forces we came out of the last century with are not the forces we need today, or probably the forces we will need in the future."

Myers credits the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 as starting transformation in the military by forcing the services to work more closely together. He said the landmark law laid the groundwork for the success of today's forces.

The global war on terrorism highlights the accomplishments and needs

"The transformation of the United States military is to get us ready for what's around the next corner..."

- Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers

of the military. In Afghanistan, innovative ways of using air power and special operations forces embedded with indigenous forces were the key to defeating al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Around 20,000 U.S. service members continue to provide support to the Afghan government and to hunt al Qaeda and Taliban remnants in some of the most forbidding terrain in the world.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was the first "really integrated joint fight" in

U.S. history, the chairman said.

In the first Gulf War, the services were "deconflicted," meaning the Marines were given a certain area, the Army another and coalition forces still another.

In Operation Iraqi Freedom, the services depended on each other for combat power and support. In one instance, a Marine commander, serving under an Army commander, was in charge not only of Marine forces, but also British and U.S. Army units.

"Any unit making the approach to Baghdad relied heavily on airpower to be there at the right time, in the right place and with the right ordnance," Myers said. "It didn't matter if the aircraft were from the Air Force, Navy, Marines or Army — all worked off a common knowledge base, common mission plan and were able to speak directly with the supported units on the ground."

But the military can do better, Myers said. Command and control is the area that will give warfighters the single biggest payoff.

"We need to put efforts into command and control and link all players on the battlefield so information flows

See "Transformation" Page A-10

New 'Families First' strives to improve moving process for all

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Full replacement value for lost or damaged items is among several changes taking effect in October as part of a new program called "Families First" that aims to improve the moving process for military families.

"We're going to have a lot of happier campers, because they are not going to be losing any money out of their pockets like they did before," said Cullen Hutchinson of the Passenger and Personal Property Office at the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria, Va.

According to Hutchinson, under the current claims process, service members only receive a depreciated value for property that is lost or damaged. For example, a \$200 television that is lost or damaged might only be valued at \$100 after depreciation, he said.

With Families First, Hutchinson explained, "The carrier will either replace the television with a similar one or reimburse the service member the full cost of a new one."

Another benefit of Families First is that service members will now deal directly with the carrier to arrange direct delivery of household goods, thus alleviating the need for temporary storage, Hutchinson added.

"What makes this even better for the service members is that whenever you have temporary storage, the more handling of your household goods, the more susceptible it is for loss or damage," he said.

Hutchinson added that direct delivery will also save the military money now spent for temporary storage.

With Families First, service members will file settlement claims directly with the carrier, using a Web-based claim filing process.

"There will not be a middle man; the service member will be able to address the carrier directly on the issue they have," Hutchinson continued, "and the carrier will have an incentive to take care of that service member in a positive way."

Military members will be encouraged to complete a Web-based customer satisfaction survey that measures the performance of carriers, and that survey will become part of that carrier's record.

"If the carrier's performance is poor, then the amount of business he's going to get from the government is going to fall off or stop completely," Hutchinson explained. "So, there is an incentive there. It's no longer a competition on cost,

See "Families first" Page A-9

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes letters and commentaries from readers. To submit call the editor at 655-4816 or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com. The deadline for articles is the Thursday before the week of publication. Send all articles in Microsoft Word or text format.

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Biker’s good fortune leaves skid marks

Commentary
By Spc. Jonathan M. Stiffler
Army News Service

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — I had just returned from my first deployment to Kuwait, where I spent almost the entire deployment dreaming of the motorcycle I wanted. When I got home, I quickly started shopping for a bike. I soon bought a Suzuki GSX-R 750 and purchased a jacket, helmet and gloves — all of which were top-of-the-line. I watched the motorcycle being uncrated. The engine started for the first time. The scene was like watching something being born. Unfortunately, I’d never ridden a motorcycle — let alone one that weighed more than 300 pounds., so my best friend had to put the first miles on the Suzuki to get it home. Shortly after I got the bike, I practiced riding it in a parking lot and on some local roads. I also went and got my permit and motorcycle license. I told my chain of command I’d purchased the bike and was looking forward to riding it that summer. They told me to look at the post regulations and Army policies on motorcycle riding and make sure I abided by them. I soon found out that I lacked the required Motorcycle Safety Foundation

Basic Rider Course, and I was disappointed because it would be a month before I could get the course and meet the requirements to ride. However, after taking the course I felt much more confident in my abilities to maneuver and control the bike. Moreover, I knew how to stop the bike quickly. As the months went by, I really enjoyed riding my bike. On a Friday I’ll never forget, my commander and first sergeant gave a safety briefing. They always included motorcycle safety in their weekly briefing, and I always laughed because I was the only motorcycle rider in the unit. I’d ridden my bike to the post that day and was getting ready to leave when my commander came up and said, "Ride safe!" I laughed, and told him I would. It was 37 miles from the post to where I lived. The dry, hot weather was pure biker bliss. I was about 15 minutes from post riding on Interstate 5 near the Tacoma Dome area. It’s an area of I-5 where you have to be really careful because there’s a curve you can’t see around. I was going about 75 mph to keep up with the traffic. I started into the curve and looked as far ahead as I could, just as I’d been taught in the safety course. What I saw shocked me. The traffic ahead had gone from 75 mph to a complete stop! I had about 300 yards

between myself and a Chevy Cavalier. My mind was racing as I searched for a way out of the mess, but the traffic didn’t leave me many choices. Then I saw the outside emergency lane, which didn’t look much wider than my bike. I dove into the lane, barely missing the Cavalier and passing 11 vehicles before I got the Suzuki stopped. I’d just gotten the fastest — and most memorable — lesson of my short motorcycle-riding career. I learned to always ride carefully and responsibly and be extra alert when approaching areas where my vision is blocked. I also realized I needed better braking skills, so I went out and practiced several high-speed stops. That day I’d almost done a high side off my bike, and the feeling of the front wheel locking up is one no biker ever forgets. I also learned I always need to be planning a safe escape route should I have to avoid a problem on the highway. That day should have been like any other—but it wasn’t. Some people would say I was lucky — but that’s not the case. It wasn’t so much that I was lucky as I was fortunate. I was fortunate I’d received the MSF training I needed to help me in an emergency.

(Editor’s Note: Spc. Jonathan Stiffler serves with the 551st Medical Logistics Company at Fort Lewis, Wash.)

I’m keeping the midnight watch

Commentary
By Sarah Burdan
Contributing Writer

It is past midnight and another long night. I should be asleep preparing to jump out of bed to face another day of classes, coordination, e-mails, meetings and homework. Yeah, right. I never jump out of bed. I do, however, lie in the dark penning letters to my husband David, writing articles in my head. I got swept up in midterms and some organizational issues and have not had a chance to physically write. Tonight, though — rather this morning, I will. It is 12:35 a.m. I’m tackling a midnight watch trying not to jump when the phone rings or hope for a knock on my door. I’m trying to push the news ringing in my head out of my heart. Another night spent in prayer. My relationship with Christ has been my saving grace — no pun intended. I hear the stories David shares — though months later — and read the stories of countless others. God is so faithful and He is watching over my husband and many, many others. The power of prayer is being demonstrated all over the world. Unnoticed, I’m a wife on her knees late at night before her God, pleading for the safety of my husband, as a mother pleads the dedication and love that keeps her steadfast and compassionate. This love enables her to wipe her own tears and reach out to those around her. Bravo. This love does not go unnoticed. Love is what pushes us forward and what makes us stand firm, unwilling to let a night go by without valiantly standing guard on our knees. I see them everywhere, these eyes of love. I cannot seem to get away from them. I see a Soldier laughing, a husband and father as he throws his little girl in the air. His eyes sparkle with love and hope for the future. I pause and watch his wife. She looks on, savoring the moment. Their eyes meet and my heart is seized. I have seen that look before. Acceptance, love, laughter and hope. I am taken to another lifetime and I remember the eyes of my husband. I pause to savor the memory. I can see him carrying my little brother,

screaming in pain, to the emergency room. He swoops him up and engulfs him in his arms. I am terrified but David is calm, as always. Holding, comforting and protecting a scared little boy; he never leaves his side. I remember his eyes again, one of the rare times I have ever seen him cry. On our wedding day, he looked at me, and the whole world stopped. Those chocolate eyes were confident and hopeful. I looked into them and leapt into our future together. Then there was that long horrible night when the eyes of my husband shined with resolve, compassion and love. I didn’t understand. Why did he have to go? He was not even a part of that unit. I was indignant, scared and angry. I wanted to scream and tear up the orders. They had made a mistake. My husband was not going to a war zone; I would not let him. We were in the kitchen, and I shocked him with my anger and my fear. I did not realize I was crying, screaming and shaking.

"Baby." His voice was soft. "No! This is a mistake!" I shouted. "Sarah." He reached for me and I pulled away. "Don't touch me. You fix this. I can't do this for 18 months; that is half of our marriage. Fix it. I can't do this," I lamented. "I am not a military wife; I do not want to be a military wife," I continued, throwing the papers at him. "I don't even know what rank you are; for goodness sake, David, I can't! I won't!" "Come here," David said, and I could feel his arms picking me up. He carried me to the couch and put me on his lap and held me. I sobbed on his chest; he wiped away my tears and cupped my chin. "Look at me, princess," he said, and I looked at him. He was more serious than I have ever seen. "I have to go. "I don't know how this is going to turn out; I won't make any promises and break my word," he said, "but no matter what, I love you. I have always loved you and I will always love you." I shift thoughts, taking another look at this couple, laughing with their child, and then I drift away. It has now been almost a year since David received orders that night. I am still alive. I still laugh. I still ache, but more than that, I love. I love that man with more passion than I can express, so another night will pass. My midnight watches will continue.

Factoid

The human body is amazingly resilient and can survive rapid stops producing up to 50 “Gs” (that is 50 times your normal weight). However, impacts producing 30 Gs or more often can cause damage to internal organs as they slam forward inside the chest cavity. Shoulder belts help prevent these injuries, by controlling a driver’s or passenger’s forward movement during a crash.

Voices of Lightning

What issue should be brought up in this year’s HAFAP conference?



"There is too much reserved parking at the PX and commissary parking lots."

Spc. Roshand Burkett
84th Eng. Bn.



"Barracks' hygiene and maintenance needs to be improved."

Spc. Curtis Davis
HHC, 2nd Bde.



"The older housing needs to be repaired and brought up to date. Also, there needs to be more playgrounds in the housing areas."

Angelika Rios
Spouse



"There needs to be speed bumps in housing areas for the safety of the children."

Debbie Hetherington
Spouse



"Housing still looks bad for Soldiers. Also, I have heard of Soldiers complaining about the level of lawn care they are receiving."

Capt. John Turner
2nd Brigade Assistant S-4



"Housing is a major problem for our Soldiers. We have redeploying Soldiers living in substandard barracks."

1st Sgt. Micheal Horton
HSC, 84th Eng. Bn.

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Soldiers from the U.S. Army Vessel CW3 Harold C. Clinger assist Marines during a training exercise at Pearl Harbor’s East Loch.

Courtesy Photo

Soldiers assist Marines during joint amphibious ops

By Chief Warrant Officer 2
Michael Cook

PEARL HARBOR — Soldiers acted as safety personnel and assisted with the launching and recovery of reconnaissance craft when instructors from the Amphibious Raid Branch, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (out of Coronado, Calif.) recently used the U.S. Army Vessel CW3 Harold C. Clinger, an LSV-2, as a training platform.

The instructors had come to Oahu to run a group through the Small Boat Company Grade Training Course.

During the week of day and night operations, about 90 Marines from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay) learned and practiced different aspects of amphibious-based operations.

The leathernecks practiced launching and recovering of small boats from the stern of the LSV in East Loch here, and at an offshore training area south of Barbers Point.

Spc. Todd Holladay, the vessel's medic, worked with the Navy medic assigned to the Marines by pre-staging emergency equipment. He also remained on standby in case of a medical emergency on the main deck during operations. No medical aid would

be needed, however, due to the emphasis on safety throughout the training.

Members of the engineering department were stationed on the stern. From there they could raise or lower the ramp as needed and act as additional safeties while other deck-side personnel moved on and off the main deck ramp when each raft was launched or recovered.

"Working with the Marines gave us diversity of training and an increased awareness of how Marines work for future joint operations," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Al Early, 605th Transportation Detachment executive officer.

A constant flow of information between vessel master and detachment commander Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tim Turner, on the bridge, and at other stations, also assured no confusion existed about exactly what was happening.

Despite changes in sea and weather conditions, the Clinger's speed and heading were kept as stable as possible for all ramp operations.

The launching of small craft as a part of amphibious operations is not a normal function for Army Watercraft. Its missions typically involve the delivery of cargo.

Nonetheless, Soldiers of the 605th Transportation Detachment performed amazing feats in support of the Marines' training, said participants.



Courtesy Photo

Tactical vehicles from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are unloaded from the U.S. Army Vessel CW3 Harold C. Clinger. Marines used the vessel to learn and practice different aspects of amphibious-based operations.

325th CSH says farewell, 249th CSH takes over



2nd Lt. Julie Sheets of the 325th Combat Support Hospital examines an Afghan woman's eyes during a cooperative medical assistance mission in Bamian Province. Providing assistance through CMAs is one way the 325th CSH medical staff aided Afghan people in remote areas.

Story and Photos by
Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — As the year-long deployment for the Soldiers of the 325th Combat Support Hospital came to a close, the service members reflected on the hard work they put into the thousands of Coalition forces and Afghan citizens they treated.

The main hospital is located at Bagram Airfield with the primary mission of treating sick or injured service members and civilians, but the medical staff also treated Afghans throughout the country with life-threatening injuries or health concerns.

During the past year, the service members assigned to the 325th CSH treated more than 34,000 patients at their medical facilities and during cooperative medical assistance missions, and they also performed more than 1,700 surgeries.

“We have treated a lot of patients that could have died or been permanently injured if they hadn't received the treatment we provided,” said Master Sgt. Terri Bly, a 325th CSH nurse. “Knowing that we have made a difference in so many lives makes this year very rewarding.”

Included in the total number of patients are more than 9,000 Afghans.

“We have treated everything from burns to landmine injuries,” said Lt. Col. Billie Wisdom, the 325th's deputy



Master Sgt. Terri Bly of the 325th Combat Support Hospital listens to an Afghan woman's breathing during a cooperative medical assistance mission in Ghazni Province.

commander. “It makes the staff feel good to know that they have been able to help so many people.”

Being in a position to change the lives of those around you is something the medical staff of the 325th took very seriously.

“We do our best to improve the lives of every patient we treat,” said Bly. “During this deployment, I feel we have done just that. We have made a difference in the lives of both service members and Afghans alike.”

During the change of command ceremony March 11, the hospital officially became the 249th Combat Support Hospital and Task Force Strength, which is comprised of service members from close to two dozen locations throughout the United States.

“Even though the change of command [ceremony] wasn't

until the eleventh of March, we started providing care and taking over the mission at the end of February,” said Col. John Giddens, Task Force Strength and 249th CSH commander.

Stepping up and taking over for another unit can be difficult, but the 249th CSH was ready for the task at hand and jumped in head first.

“As of March 9, the medical staff had already treated close to 800 patients and conducted two dozen surgeries,” said Staff Sgt. Josalette Husband, 249th CSH clinical operations non-commissioned officer in charge.

With the mission moving at full speed, service members of the 325th CSH diligently trained with members of the 249th throughout the transfer of authority process.

For more than a week, Soldiers of the 325th spent much of their time left in the hospital training the incoming

unit. “The right-seat, left-seat was a lot different from what I expected it to be like,” said Husband. “Instead of watching how they did their job to get the mission accomplished, we did the work and got hands-on experience from the start. I really liked it; I feel like I learned more than I would have otherwise.”

With cross training complete, the 249th is now ready to add to the list of its predecessor's accomplishments in Afghanistan.

“Our goal is to continue the work that was done by the 325th,” said Husband, “as well as add a few accomplishments of our own.”

One such achievement the 249th is looking forward to maintaining is its rapport with a local hospital in Kabul for Afghan patients.

“Part of our mission here is to build up the local medical infrastructure,” said Sgt. 1st Class George Jones, 249th CSH night shift battle captain. “In order to do so, we are looking at working with a local hospital and having some of the patients transferred to the [local medical] facility once their condition has stabilized.”

While the medical staff has many goals for their time here, they know they still have their primary mission to accomplish.

“Caring for people is what we do,” Jones said. “If we don't focus on the most important things first — saving people's lives, then none of the additional goals we have set will ever be attained.”

News Briefs

Public Auction — Property forfeited to the State of Hawaii will be auctioned tomorrow at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center. Property may be inspected at 11 a.m., before the auction begins at noon.

Items for auction include a '99 Honda Civic, '95 Mercury Mystique, '95 Suzuki Sidekick, '99 Ford F250 pickup, '91 Acura Integra, '87 BMW 325i, stereo equipment, tools and jewelry. For a complete list of items, visit www.rose-nauctions.com.

Proceeds from the auction will be used by state and county law enforcement agencies to combat crime.

For more information, contact Wesley Teixeira at 586-1383 or Rosen Auctions at 537-2728.

To give information about individuals who are profiting from criminal activity, call Crime Stoppers at 955-8300.

Schofield Barracks Tax Help — Time is running out to complete 2004 federal and state taxes. However, the Schofield Barracks Tax Center, Bldg. 361 (in back of the museum), is open Mondays – Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 – 4 p.m. to help you complete and file your taxes.

The Internal Revenue Service has certified all tax preparers. Call 655-5144 for more information.

Fort Shafter Tax Help — The Fort Shafter Tax Center, in the Aloha Center, Bldg. 330, is open Mondays – Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Internal Revenue Service has certified all tax preparers. Call 438-2829 for more details.

Army Emergency Relief — Consider making a voluntary contribution to your Army community AER fund. Your contribution is important to individuals with emergency needs.

Monetary donations are accepted at any time. For more information, contact your unit AER Fund Campaign project officer, or call 655-2383.

Lewis Street Road Closure — Lewis Street at Schofield Barracks will be closed from Monday through April 29 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., due to road construction. During off hours, the unpaved area will be covered with steel plates and traffic will be restored to its original flow.

Caution is advised. Contact Hunjin Kye at 655-0441 for more details.

Financial Assistance — The welfare grant committee of the Schofield Barracks Hui O' Na Wahine will be accepting requests for funds from community organizations through April 9. Organizations must provide their name, point of contact with phone number, amount requested, project for which the funds will be used, and how the project will benefit the community.

Funds will be distributed in May; send requests to Hui O' Na Wahine; ATTN: Welfare Committee; P.O. Box 861305; Wahiawa, HI 96786.

Contact Robin Orner at 624-6979 for more information.

Heard Ave. Road Closure — Heard Avenue, from Kolekole Avenue to Foote Avenue, Schofield Barracks, will be closed April 11-15 for resurfacing.

Obtain more information from Jeremy Castro at 842-3245; Brad Chikuma at 656-2914, ext. 3041; or Terry Lopez at 656-3036.

Schofield Barracks Commissary — The Schofield Barracks commissary will open at 8 a.m. and close at 3 p.m., April 11. Store hours will be 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. on April 12.

Hurricane Exercise — U.S. Army Hawaii units and installations will participate in the annual statewide Hurricane Exercise Makani Pahili 2005 from May 6-13. For additional information, con-

tact Ray Pack at 655-5253.

Olson Farewell — The aloha farewell for Vicki Olson will be held May 16 at the Helemano Plantation at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$11 per person.

Contact your family readiness group leader for more details.

HACN-TV2 Visual Information Center — For all video production service requests, bulletin board announcements, equipment, audio or presentation support submit a completed DA Form 3903 (Visual Information Work Order) via e-mail to opsrpt@shafter.army.mil or fax the Network Operation Center, 30th Signal Battalion at 438-0804.

Requests for services and loan of visual information equipment and library items must be submitted 30 days before the required date of service. Customers must plan accordingly to ensure completion by the required date.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in VIC services and support not being provided. For more information, call Larry Thomas at 295-0205.

Free IT Training — Did you know that as an Army Soldier or civilian you have access to more than 1,500 free Web-based information technology, business and self development courses that provide IT certification training as well as continuous learning points?

If your office or home environment is not conducive to training, visit a Digital Training Facility to take the training in a classroom style setting.

For more information, go to www.us.army.mil and select "My Education" under "Self Service" and click "Army e-Learning."

DTFs are located at Fort Shafter and Wheeler. To locate others, visit www.dls.army.mil and click on "Digital Training Facilities."

ID Cards — The www.dfas.mil to www.dod.mil/dfas. Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review their links and update them.

Users will be redirected to the root level of the new site. Direct links to pages at the previous site will get an error message.

Installation Access Pass Office is now issuing DA Form 1602, which is the civilian ID card for retired Department of the Army civilians and eligible family members of current and retired DA civilians.

For more details, call the Pass Office at 655-1620.

Renovation Shop — The 540th Quartermaster

Company Renovation Shop, Bldg. 585, offers free sewing of patches for BDUs, DCUs, Gortex, Kevlar-covers, bands and minor repairs. Turn-around time is 24 to 72 hours or while you wait.

Hours are Mondays – Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Call 655-0253.

Wolfhounds ‘set tone for the rest of the Division’

2/27th receives awards for honorable service

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHARANA, Afghanistan — With their tour in Operation Enduring Freedom drawing to a close, the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, recently took the time to recognize individual achievement with awards ceremonies.

The ceremonies at Forward Operating Bases Sharana, Waza Khwa and Orgun-E represented the constant operations conducted by the Wolfhounds throughout Paktika Province, said former Combined Joint Task Force-76 Commander Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson.

Olson was on hand for each of the ceremonies to present awards to the Soldiers – an opportunity he called an honor.

“The Wolfhounds were the first on the ground for the 25th Infantry Division,” said Olson. “It was the Wolfhounds who set the tone for the rest of the division.”

Olson explained that award ceremonies like these recognize the individuals who made the entire operation successful. “You were the guys making



Spc. Nathan Adams (second from left), Company B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, is awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

it happen,” he said. “The [privates] and the sergeants made the elections a reality. You are the ones that I’m extremely proud of.”

At Sharana, Olson awarded Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals to members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company B.

Achievements reflected the work put into establishing a new forward operating base, assisting the developing government and providing security for the presidential election.

With the Wolfhounds on hand during a pivotal time in Afghanistan’s history, their awards represent the success of not only the unit, but also the local government, said 1st Lt. Stephen Holmberg, a Bronze Star Medal recipient from Co. B.

“The security we provided

during the elections created a safe environment for the elections to take place,” Holmberg said.

Although many achievements distinguished the Wolfhounds, Co. B infantryman Spc. Nathan Adams said his award was especially meaningful because it represented team achievement more than individual effort.

“This award makes me feel good because me and my whole squad got through the rotation,” Adams explained. “We couldn’t have done it without each other.”

Just as special as getting the award was the rotation ending on such a positive note, Adams added.

In all, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., was awarded 96 Bronze Star Medals, 448 Army Commendation medals and one Legion of Merit.

Afghans bid farewell to Wolfhounds

Infantrymen honored during ceremony in Paktika Province

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORGUN-E, Afghanistan — During the past year, the “Wolfhounds” of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, formed tight bonds with their brothers in arms, an expected side effect of operating in a combat zone for 12 months.

Somewhat unexpected, however, is the close friendship gained from working closely with the local government of Paktika Province and the Afghans in the area.

To honor this special relationship, the Wolfhounds and the provincial leaders held a ceremony before the Soldiers made their journey back to Hawaii early March.

During the ceremony, both 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., and Afghan officials spoke and received recognition for their achievements.

On hand from the provincial government were Governor Haji Mohammed Glilab Mengal and Afghan National Police Gen. Rahime, head of the province’s police force, who took the job as police chief early in the Wolfhounds’ rotation.

“When I first took over in my job, there were only a few police,” he said. “Now there are more than 400,” he explained regarding Coalition assistance and security that dramatically changed within the province.

The partnership between the Coalition and Afghans provides the motivation for many who work for Rahime to continue to risk their lives to maintain stability, he said.

Although speakers mentioned Paktika Province’s successes throughout the ceremony, the strong relationship between the Wolfhounds and their Afghan friends stood out on its own merits.

One of the event’s highlights was the presentation of the Bronze Star Medal to Capt. John R. Sego, commander of Company B, by Mengal.

Although unusual to receive an award from a civilian, Sego said it was a great honor to have the governor pin the award on his chest.

“It was fitting,” said Sego. “What I liked



Paktika Province Governor Haji Mohammed Glilab Mengal pins a Bronze Star Medal on Capt. John R. Sego, the commander of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., during a farewell ceremony held on Forward Operating Base Orgun-E.

about getting the award from the governor was that it is representative of the bond and friendship that developed from the year.

“Our personalities just clicked,” he continued. “Our relationship definitely helped us get more accomplished.”

Daily interaction with his Afghan partners added greatly to the company’s mission, said Sego.

“I will definitely miss them,” he added. “Working with [the Afghans] was a major part of our operation here.”

Both parties offered gestures of goodwill through various gift exchanges throughout the ceremony.

Coalition members and Afghans who died during the past year were remembered.

The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute and the playing of “Taps.”

DICAS awards coins, medal to diverse group



Staff Sgt. Twana Atkinson

More than 40 Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians received recognition for outstanding service at the Division and Installation Command and Staff awards ceremony Tuesday.

Compiled by Aiko Brum
Managing Editor

Col. Michael T. McBride, commander, U.S. Army, Hawaii, presented awards and the coveted commanding general's coin to "a multifaceted group" of Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians, Tuesday at the Division and Installation Command and Staff awards ceremony.

Among the honors, 10 Soldiers received recognition as their brigade or separate unit trainer/maintainer for the month of March, and two special presentations honored individuals for their excellence while competing in the 2nd quarter, fiscal year 2005 Culinary Specialist of the Quarter competition.

Many Soldiers received recognition for supporting both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom with more than 40 chalks.

"They ... helped 7,000 Soldiers,

returning with almost 18,000 pieces of personal and CTA-50 equipment, weighing over 600 tons," the commendation read. "These Soldiers have contributed to over 90 percent of all chalks, and have meticulously performed the task of manually organizing, alphabetically, all equipment in 30 minutes or less per chalk."

Two awardees received recognition for their first place win and community efforts at the 10th Annual Hawaiian Electric Electron Marathon, another for developing the Schofield Barracks Army Installation Design Guide, which captured a 2004 Federal Planning Division Award (Category 1).

McBride also honored several DA civilians — a Housing employee, who garnered national recognition for a recent Basic Housing Allowance Hawaii Survey, and seven winners of the 2004 Army Designer Arts Contest.

Recipients of the CG's Coin

Trainer/Maintainers

Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas J. Faichney, USAG-HI
1st Sgt. Richard T. Roza, 45th CSG
Sgt. 1st Class George S. Guerrero, 1101st GSU
Staff Sgt. Jason J. Jakubecz, Avn. Bde.
Sgt. Danny Carr, MP Bde.-HI

Spc. Heather A. Childs, Avn. Bde.
Spc. Ashley N. Ikegwuonu, 556th PSB
Spc. Daniel J. Tutolo, 115th MI Group
Spc. Daniel J. Watson, 556th PSB
Pfc. Kurtis W. Sommer, DISCOM

Culinary Specialist of the Quarter

Spc. Wendy Shaw, 556th PSB
Spc. Rosa Galera, HHC, 25th ID(L)

Redeployment Support

Staff Sgt. Lynn Hollins
Staff Sgt. Charles Sparks
Sgt. Jorge Castillo
Sgt. Robert Garcia
Sgt. Dale Kearney
Spc. Jeremy Barnett
Spc. Steven Blaylock
Spc. James Dean
Spc. Samuel Johnson
Spc. Rosalio Loera
Spc. Chris Lumives
Spc. Matthew Medeiros
Spc. Jessica Rabano
Spc. Charles Rice
Spc. Jason Ross
Spc. Lucas Walker
Pv2 Artemus Adams
Pv2 Kevin Bridges
Pfc. Chris Crusan
Pfc. Ashley Osborne

1st Place at the 10th Annual
HECO Electron Marathon
Keith Yamanaka, DPW
Spc. Jose Maldonado, 84th Eng. Bn.

Army Installation Design Guide
David H. Lee

Basic Housing Allowance Hawaii Survey
Pamela R. Hirota

2004 Army Designer Arts Contest
Alexander Kufel, 1st place, water color painting & honorable mention, drawing
Yvonne Lexis, 1st place, ceramics
Hee-sun Sagatis, 1st place, oil painting
Jitsuko Sato, 1st place, glass
Spc. Shawn Powell, 1st place, mixed media 3-D
Val Kono, 2nd place & honorable mention, ceramics
Margaret Tacub, 2nd place, ceramics
Sandy Perry, honorable mention, glass



Commending valor



Jonathan P. Graebener

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Robert Ord III presents the Army Commendation Medal for Valor to Cpl. Jeremy Horsley of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, during a ceremony on March 21 in front of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) museum. Horsley earned the ARCOM for Valor during combat action in Nawbahar, Zabol Province, Afghanistan, in December 2004.



Joy Boisselle

Col. Stanley Q. Tunstall Sr. (standing at left), commander of the 45th Corps Support Group (Forward), addresses key leaders at an Army Emergency Relief breakfast held at the group’s dining facility March 23.

AER
From A-1

fund campaign.

“Our Soldiers look to you [key leaders] for guidance and direction based on your rank and experience,” he explained. “I am asking you to go back to your companies, platoons and sections and tell the Soldiers about AER.

“Ask them to be a part of the team and invest in the well-being of our Soldiers and their families. That’s what AER’s all about.”

One attendee was Capt. Christopher Lowe, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 45th CSG (Forward).

“AER is a great program and the only program I am aware of that Soldiers can use to help Soldiers directly,” Lowe said. “Colonel Tunstall believes the AER

campaign is a function of leadership. By emphasizing to us leaders the importance of AER, we can deliver the message to our Soldiers more effectively,” he added regarding Tunstall’s AER key leader philosophy.

With 29 years of service, Command Sgt. Major Harry Collins, added credence to Tunstall’s words.

“Key leader involvement is directly related to the success of the AER campaign,” emphasized the sergeant major. “They [key leaders] are the ones out there with the Soldiers every day, talking up the program and explaining what it means and how it helps Soldiers.”

While most key leaders are supportive of AER, Staff Sgt. Mark McLeod has a personal stake in the campaign.

“I had to use AER several

years ago ... I needed the help and AER helped me out. I am here to support AER and make sure the word gets out about contributing to the campaign,” McLeod said.

At the conclusion of the breakfast, Tunstall added, “There are plenty of good causes but AER is specifically designed to help Soldiers. We are all on the same team, and if everyone gives just a little, we will achieve our goals.

“It really is an investment for yourself and our Soldiers,” Tunstall emphasized.

(Editor’s Note: For AER assistance, contact Army Community Services at 655-2400. For information on the annual AER campaign, contact 1st Lt. Walter at 655-2383 or via e-mail at aer-campaign@schofield.army.mil.)

Increasing retirement age, lengths of duty, NSPS among initiatives

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department civilians will soon be paid for productivity rather than longevity, while in future years service members may be required to serve longer tours of duty and spend more time in the military before becoming eligible for retirement.

These initiatives are part of DoD efforts to transform itself into a more agile and efficient organization for the 21st century, David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, noted during a March 23 interview with the Pentagon Channel for its documentary “Facing the Future.”

In fact, Chu noted, the new National Security Personnel System slated for partial implementation in July will affect about 300,000 of the department’s 700,000 civilian employees. Remaining DoD civilian employees are slated to move into the new system starting around January 2007.

Current civilian pay scales, Chu explained, are based on how “long you’ve been around.” He said polls show that younger workers, of which DoD is seeking to replace retiring older employees with, want a more performance-based compensation system.

“They want to join an organization where if you do more, you are rewarded,” Chu pointed out.

Performance for pay “is not an untried principle” at DoD, Chu continued, noting several pay-for-performance pilot programs have been tested through the years.

The NSPS also gives managers the tools to hire new employees more quickly, and more means to discipline underproducers.

Such change, Chu acknowledged, is likely to be “upsetting” among a workforce accustomed to the older personnel system. Managers who will supervise workers under the NSPS, he noted, will “require training and preparation in order for them to be effective.”

Chu asked DoD employees to be patient as NSPS is implemented, noting studies of pay-for-performance pilot programs have shown most workers like the new system.

After NSPS has been fully implemented “you will have a much happier work force,” Chu predicted.

He further pointed out that old civil service rules hamstrung supervisors and often

caused military members to be employed for tasks that could be accomplished by civilian employees.

Implementation of NSPS, Chu noted, will allow more flexible use of civilian employees, while freeing up military members to perform other important duties.

Another initiative that’s under study, Chu said, involves establishing longer duty tours for service members, especially senior officers. He noted that some military leaders serve in their posts for too short a time.

“So, they never have enough tenure to make transformational changes, to see them through to success,” Chu said, noting many senior officer tours of duty span just 18 to 24 months.

Another personnel change under consideration is increasing the years of service military members need to retire. Today’s 20-year minimum required for military retirement, he said, “has become something of an ‘automatic’ event” that began after World War II.

The 20-year retirement, Chu said, was established in conjunction with an “up-or-out” policy recommended by then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall and was designed to prune veteran service members who’d become ineffective partly due to increased age.

But today’s military members in their 40s and 50s are “physically fit,” Chu said, and they are “able to do many of the things that are necessary to do” in the military environment.

Consequently, Chu maintained, “We need to have a system that allows them to serve ... on active service longer.”

That envisioned change, Chu pointed out, “is one of the most difficult transformational challenges” DoD faces.

“We are really at [the] early stages in making this shift,” he explained. “Some of it requires legislative changes, which we have not yet convinced the Congress to make.”

Addressing the amount of military pay required to attract and retain quality service members in the future, Chu emphasized, “If we don’t keep up a vigorous, upfront compensation package, we will not succeed in the long term.”

Achieving transformation, Chu pointed out, requires having “a sharp and appropriate set of tools in your toolkit” and a willingness to adapt to new methods of doing military business.

Medal of Honor awarded to fallen Soldier

Soldiers recall the courage under fire Smith displayed

By Eric W. Cramer
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Like any account of combat, reports of the day Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith died are different depending on the perspectives of the witnesses. What is clear is that he died performing a Soldier's duty and protecting his troops in the strong tradition of U.S. Army noncommissioned officers.

A day of battle

It was a busy day for U.S. troops throughout Iraq. Smith's engineer unit was supporting Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry, as part of the 3rd Infantry Division's movement on Baghdad.

"The thing I remember most was the speed and continuity of movement," said Lt. Col. Thomas Smith, 11th Engineer Battalion commander about what he described as a "professionally exhilarating" unit objective on April 4, 2003. "We had two primary missions on the march to Baghdad: to secure a crossing on the Euphrates River and to take and hold the Baghdad airport."

Late the preceding night, or early that morning, the lieutenant colonel's battalion had helped units from the 3rd Infantry Division take Saddam Hussein International Airport. As the sun rose, Soldiers were moving to secure that airport and continue with the assault on Baghdad.

"Initially, we had no mission that morning, other than defense of what became called the 'four corners' intersection outside the airport," said Capt. Brian Borkowski, then a lieutenant in the 11th Engineers and Smith's platoon leader. "The infantry wanted to do a little recon[naissance] south of that position and called for engineer support.

"I talked about it with Sergeant Smith and left the platoon with him while I went off with an Armored Combat Earthmover to support that mission."

Borkowski said he and Smith had a conversation on the median of the highway before they parted.

"We did what we call a 'gotwa', just to determine who was going where," Borkowski said. "Then I left to help with the recon."

An engineer mission

While Borkowski worked with the infantry, his platoon received orders to create a compound to hold enemy prisoners. He added that the area of highway near the airport included compounds belonging to Saddam Hussein's Republican Guards, and these walled compounds featured observation towers. From the area of these towers, the unit was taking sporadic fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

"We talked about the fact that we couldn't see where the fire was coming from, because we were only 100 feet or so from this wall," Borkowski said. "So Sergeant Smith told me he was going to knock a hole in that wall, so we could put some eyes on the other side of it. When the order came down to build that compound, he apparently decided to use the same place where he'd knocked the hole in the wall."

Sgt. Matthew Keller was in the compound when Smith began to build the holding pen.

"When we first got out there, we were taking a lot of indirect fire — RPGs [rocket-propelled grenade] blowing

up in the tops of trees and stuff. We were also getting some sniper fire, and I actually saw the sniper and knocked him down," Keller said.

"Once the hole was knocked in the wall, they went in and started working on the area," he continued. "I was still outside, but they apparently sent a couple of Soldiers forward to look out the gate at the compound, and that's when the enemy was spotted.

"I remember when they saw the enemy, Sergeant Smith got two grenades and threw them."

Reports from other Soldiers indicate an M-113 armored personnel carrier, towing a trailer, entered the compound while Keller was still outside. A short time later, Smith radioed for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle to aid in holding the position.

Keller entered the compound at about the same time that the Bradley came in to support Smith's efforts.

Enemy in sight

"Sergeant Smith and I went out the front of the gate along with the Bradley and that's when I saw the enemy ... 15 or 20 of them, and they appeared to have some fighting positions about 175 meters out," Keller said. "Sergeant Smith had a scope so he could see them better than me and he started to fire."

Keller said Smith sent him for an AT-4 rocket launcher, which he prepped, and Smith fired at the enemy.

"He went around in front of the wall to get some other Soldiers with heavier guns. I got three ... me and Sergeant Smith had a plan to assault across the field," Keller explained. "He sent me to get a jacket with the M-203 [40mm-grenade launcher] ammo ... an RPG hit the Bradley, and a mortar round hit the M-113 at about the same time."

Three Soldiers were injured by the mortar impact.

"That was when Sergeant Smith made a decision with the gallantry worthy of the Medal of Honor," Lt. Col. Smith said. "He got in the M-113 with Specialist Michael Seaman, but he didn't tell Seaman to get them out of there. He had him back up to just the point where he could cover all three of the Republican Guard targets, the tower, the wall and the gate.

"We know he went through three boxes of ammunition," the lieutenant colonel explained.

Keller, fighting his own fight, saw Smith in action.

"I was standing shooting the 203 while he [Sgt. 1st Class Smith] was getting the casualties evacuated.

"When the Bradley started backing up, I went back into the compound ... that's when I saw Sergeant Smith on the .50-cal on the 113" Keller continued. "I hollered at him to come out of there, and he did a 'cut' motion across his throat with his hand saying he wasn't leaving."

After seeing to some of the other Soldiers, Keller returned to help a group of Soldiers attempt to remove the trailer from the M-113.

"I asked where Sergeant Smith was, and one of the other troops said he was gone," Keller recalled.

Smith had been struck in the head while manning a .50-caliber Browning machinegun to cover the movement of other Soldiers out of the compound. Although Soldiers at the scene attempted resuscitation, it was unsuccessful.

Speaking of the fallen

Keller and Smith were both combat veterans. Smith's experience came from the '91 Persian Gulf War; Keller fought in Somalia in the '90s. Keller said the two worked



Sgt. Matthew Keller, Pvt. Michael Seaman and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith work together in the days leading up to the action that led to Smith's death. The three Soldiers fought for Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, in action with the 3rd Infantry Division.

well together.

"I didn't know him until we got to the desert. He was a pretty strict NCO, all about training and discipline, but I felt comfortable with him out on that wall," Keller said.

"He was an exceptional Soldier, and I don't say that lightly," Borkowski said.

"When you get attached to the infantry, they're usually a little wary. They took to Sergeant Smith right way.

"The infantry CO I was working with said, 'hey, you've got a great platoon sergeant there,'" Borkowski recalled.

Spc. Michael Seaman provided Smith with ammo to keep the .50-caliber machinegun in action until Smith was killed. Having served with Smith for five months, he expressed his admiration.

"In my opinion, he was the type of leader that every new Soldier should try to become. He was fair, yet tough. If you didn't know something, he would help you find the answer. He always knew what he was talking about," Seaman said.

"Everyone knew Sergeant First Class Smith. He was famous for his attention to standards," explained Sgt. Louis Berwald, wounded in the same action in which Smith died.

Lt. Col. Smith said he was assessing the airport's runway when he received word that Sgt. 1st Class Smith had been killed. Later in the day, he visited the platoon.

"It's a humbling feeling when you have twenty or thirty Soldiers there, and they all want to tell you they did everything they could. There was no context of heroism. These were just Soldiers who were in this fight."

(Editor's Note: The White House has announced that Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor during a White House ceremony Monday.

For more information on Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith and his receiving of the Medal of Honor, go to www.army.mil/medalofhonor/.)



Army restores tuition assistance, offers back payment of shortfalls

IMA Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Army tuition-assistance funding has been restored following a period in February and March when demand exceeded funding available at many installations.

The Army’s Human Resources Command has also issued an exception to policy authorizing “after-the-fact” tuition assistance reimbursement for Soldiers who incurred personal expense to continue with college courses.

“This is a one-time exception due to the extraordinary circumstances in February and March when many Education Centers were unable to provide tuition assistance,” said L. Dian Stoskopf, chief of Human Resource Command’s Education Division, in a memorandum authorizing installation education centers to offer the exception.

“Our hope is that we can reach every one of the Soldiers who ran into a problem with tuition assistance,” said Patricia Dumire, chief of Army Continuing Education Services for the Army’s Installation Management Agency.

The Installation Management Agency distributes tuition-assistance funding from

the Army to installation education centers. This year the Army Budget Office has allocated funding to IMA on a quarterly basis.

College enrollment timelines typically peak in September through March, which doesn’t quite fit into the new system of equal quarterly allotments. In the future, funding for tuition assistance will be centralized to eliminate the problem, officials said.

Funding for tuition assistance dried up unexpectedly in March because of exceptionally high Soldier demand, officials said.

“In a way, this is a good news story,” Dumire said. “Soldiers are taking advantage of their tuition assistance benefits to enhance their education.”

The Installation Management Agency has received \$21.4 million to subsidize the immediate tuition assistance shortfall. Soldiers who paid for courses out of pocket or who did not register for a class due to lack of funding should go to their installation education center by April 15 to make arrangements for tuition reimbursement or late enrollment.

Requests for special exception after April 15 will be forwarded to Human Resources Command for consideration.

Families first

From A-1

but it’s a competition now with cost and performance.”

The survey gives military members a chance to influence decisions on whether a carrier continues to do business with the Defense Department. The result, Hutchinson said, will be “more quality carriers, which will translate into quality service for our service members. And higher quality carriers will ultimately mean higher quality moves.”

Hutchinson said efforts like Families First should help improve the quality of service in the military moving industry that transports the household

goods of more than 500,000 service members and their families each year.

He said problems in the moving industry have plagued the services for years, and that efforts to improve the moving process have been ongoing since 1994, starting with reengineering of the household goods process.

“The perceptions were that DoD was experiencing a very high loss and damage rate,” Hutchinson continued. “When we looked at the numbers, it was significantly higher than some of the corporate accounts.”

In addition, he said, claim rates also were higher for military moves. While average military claims ranged around

\$500, he said, many corporate claims were in the range of \$100.

In the end, DoD expects to see a “considerable decrease in loss and damage claims. The reason for that is that the carrier is assuming a higher liability for claims,” Hutchinson said. “So, it’s in their best interest to protect the goods better so they are not subject to this loss.”

Hutchinson said Families First should also ease some of the stress involved with moving.

“What we’re trying to do is reduce that stress for our service members, so they can concentrate on more important things and not worry about ‘my stuff.’”



Sgt. Sean Kimmons

George Smith IV, a packer helper with Covan Moving Co., opens the side of a moving truck before delivering household goods to a barracks room Tuesday on Schofield Barracks.

Transformation demands agile force

Interim brigade combat teams embody the new military philosophy

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Change, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker recently noted, “tends to indicate an end state,” while military transformation requires “constant adaptation” in response to a changing world.

Schoomaker discussed the philosophy and mechanics of Army modernization within the context of DoD-wide transformation initiatives espoused by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld during a Pentagon interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service, March 25.

Senior service leaders, Schoomaker pointed out the

Schoomaker explained, are working to recast U.S. military forces to become more responsive, flexible and adaptive to better confront 21st-century threats like global terrorism.

This effort requires “a different set of tool kits,” the four-star general explained, including new leader training and education processes.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union presented a readily identifiable threat to America and its allies, Schoomaker recalled. He pointed to the danger posed to Europe and the world by the Russians’ then-vast conventional armed forces and powerful nuclear arsenal.

After the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991 and ensuing rapid globalization, the general noted, lethal technology such as weapons of mass destruction became “more and more available” to rogue states and transnational terrorists.

The Army, America’s largest land military force, must not only be trained and equipped to address potential conventional military threats, Schoomaker maintained, it must also “be very adaptive and agile” to confront the dangers presented by global terrorism.

“That means we need to be more modular, that means we have to have more capability to reach back into the intelligence systems, the communications systems” and joint air and ground fire-support networks, he explained.

The Army is reorganizing itself to field smaller, more capable brigade-

world’s oceans are no longer “the barriers they once were” that had isolated the United States from ethnic, religious and political strife in faraway lands. These geopolitical realities, he noted, are causing the United States to be “challenged in ways that we were not challenged before.”

The Army, America’s largest land military force, must not only be trained and equipped to address potential conventional military threats, Schoomaker maintained, it must also “be very adaptive and agile” to confront the dangers presented by global terrorism.

“That means we need to be more modular, that means we have to have more capability to reach back into the intelligence systems, the communications systems” and joint air and ground fire-support networks, he explained.

The Army is reorganizing itself to field smaller, more capable brigade-

sized units, Schoomaker said, that can be deployed much more quickly and perform more tasks than legacy forces under the old-style division system. The Army’s Stryker-armored, vehicle-equipped Interim Brigade Combat Teams embody this transformational thinking.

Schoomaker said the armed services also are making great gains in what’s called joint interoperability, or working together on the battlefield.

In the future, the general predicted, the Army will “count much more on our sister services” for supplemental artillery and air support, as well as logistics needs.

For an example of new agilities offered by joint transformation, Schoomaker pointed to logistics operations in Iraq, where Air Force transport planes are now being used to supplement the re-supply of Army and Marine bases formerly dependent on vulnerable land convoys.

While Army supply vehicles in Iraq are being fitted with supplemental armor to help deter against improvised explosive devices and other insurgent weaponry, Schoomaker observed that you can also “fly over” the threat.

“And so, we’ve worked with the Air Force,” the general noted, to establish aerial supply routes in Iraq to reduce the number of supply trucks exposed to potential enemy attack.

Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps intelligence and reconnaissance assets, Schoomaker reported, are also being pooled in Iraq to help predict and prevent enemy actions.

While acknowledging widespread change can be difficult for service members to embrace at first, Schoomaker asserted it’s important “to maintain the azimuth” of military transformation.

“As you cross each stream, you get better,” he concluded.

M-7 machinegun pedestal to boost convoy protection

By Rebecca A. Montgomery
Army News Service

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. - A new M-7 pedestal now allows Soldiers to mount machineguns and grenade launchers in the rear of their Humvee's open cargo bed to improve convoy protection.

The new, sturdier mount provides gunners with a 360-degree range of fire instead of the 180-degree range provided by the M-6 mount in front of the cargo bed.

The Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center at Rock Island Arsenal has been contracted to produce 4,500 of the new M-7 pedestals. A total of 485 have already been produced, and officials there said they are ramping up to produce 500 a month.

The M-7 pedestal allows Soldiers to mount the M-249, M-240B and M2 machineguns and the MK-19 grenade launcher in the rear cargo bed of M998 Humvees.

With the cargo Humvee being one of the most common convoy vehicles, troops in Iraq have been modifying the existing M-6 machinegun pedestal, officials said. Soldiers began moving the pedestal from its designed and tested position in front of the cargo bed to a rear position between the wheel wells.

This allowed them a 360-degree range of fire instead of the 180-degree range in the front, but created safety and structural issues. This prompted the need to change the M-6 design to better meet the requirement, said officials from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

“We’re very happy with the

new M-7 pedestal,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. Dixon, TACOM Material Fielding and Training Directorate, who has used both the M-6 and M-7 pedestals. “We now have more mobility and more freedom. We stay more focused on the mission.”

The improved pedestal also has a full Humvee bed-width base made of aluminum armor plate with alternate pedestal mounting locations and standard attaching points.

The pedestal has a more rugged column support configuration, which an official said reduces the tripping hazard presented by the M-6 and breaking of the support braces. There is also a depression stop

which ensures safe zones of fire when aiming forward, preventing shooting into the cab area.

The M-7 pedestal comes from a joint effort among Army activities at Rock Island, TACOM, the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center-Rock Island and the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center, known as ARDEC.

“We’ve sent them to various units that will be deployed and are going to Iraq,” said Bruce Stout, director of TACOM’s Aircraft Armament and Small Arms Product Support Integration Directorate.



Courtesy Photo

An employee at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., demonstrates the new M-7 machinegun mount.

Transformation

From A-1

seamlessly between Soldiers in foxholes, and airplanes and tanks and ships and air defenses,” Meyers added.

The joint task force commander should have the visibility of the battlespace and the tools needed to make changes in the plan quickly, Myers continued.

Right now, the Defense Department is ensuring that “legacy systems” – those systems already in use – can speak to each other.

“If every commander in a joint task force – from platoon on up – sees the battlefield the same way, then they can very quickly apportion forces to get the job done,” the general said.

This flexibility and agility, Myers said, is key to new capabilities needed to defend against unknown threats. The U.S. military must be able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. It must have the capabilities honed

and ready when they are needed.

New technology plays a part, but only a part, said the chairman.

“Technology can help you transform, but the real nuggets are how you employ what you have or how you develop systems that have inherent agility and flexibility and that aren’t single-purpose,” he explained.

The bottom line, the chairman said, is that people are necessary for transformation in the military. Commanders cannot be threatened when subordinates have new ideas, but rather need to encourage new ideas and give subordinates the room and budget to try those ideas out, Myers said.

“We need people who say ‘I understand what the doctrine says, but the situation we’re confronting is quite a bit different, and here’s what I think we ought to do,’” the chairman said. “Most of this transformation will be cultural and will happen between our ears.”

Ranger School opens to noncombat specialties

By Zachary M Gildin
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — A new initiative has opened up Ranger School to a broader range of Soldiers.

"Before this, Ranger School was limited to combat arms soldiers and those who were assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment or Ranger Training Brigade," explained Col. K.K. Chinn, Ranger Training Brigade commander. "Now Ranger School is open to Combat Support and Combat Service Support Soldiers for whom the combat exclusion policy does not apply."

The new change came as a part of Task Force Soldier, a focus area of the Army Campaign Plan. TF Soldier conducts holistic review and analysis of individual Soldier training, equipment and readiness needs — institutional through small units, in order to support deploying

Soldiers fighting the global war on terrorism and to prepare Soldiers for the future force.

The opening of Ranger School is seen as a way to help fulfill the goals set out by the TF Soldier guidance.

“TF Soldier [Team Warrior] was looking for ways to build warrior ethos throughout the Army and concluded that more Ranger qualified leaders would assist in accomplishing the goal of warrior ethos throughout the Army," Chinn said. "Ranger training is important because it teaches Soldiers what they need to know about small unit tactics and how to fight and win in the close combat, direct fire battle.”

Those attending Ranger School have to endure a rigorous 61-day course that pushes them to their physical and mental limits. The course consists of three phases: Fort Benning, the Mountain Phase and final-

ly the Florida Phase. Through these three phases Soldiers attain essential combat skills for the modern soldier.

"The purpose of Ranger School is to further develop the combat arms skills of officer and enlisted volunteers eligible for assignment to units whose primary mission is to engage in the close-combat, direct fire battle," Chinn added.

Chinn warns that Soldiers should not come in out of shape.

"All Soldiers interested in attending Ranger School should ensure they are physically fit and prepared for the rigors of Ranger School," Chinn emphasized.

The commander said he believes that the opportunity to attend Ranger School is a good one that comes down to one simple fact: "Bottom line, Ranger School is the best life insurance policy you can get for you and your men."

Body mass index is not mysterious

Compiled from the Hooah4Health Web site

The body mass index, or BMI, is used to measure and classify individuals who are overweight or obese. Of importance, this number is an indicator that estimates the relative risk of disease compared to normal weight. Body weight alone can be used to measure weight loss. An overweight individual is defined as someone who has a BMI of 25 to 29.9, while an obese individual is defined as having a BMI of 30 or above.


How do I determine my BMI?

To determine BMI, your present weight is divided by

your height, squared. To calculate your BMI using the BMI calculator found at www.hooah4health.com, first select your height in feet and inches and then enter your weight in pounds. Click on the "equals" button to see your body mass index.

Are there limitations to using BMI?

The BMI calculator does have limitations. First, it may overestimate body fat in athletes and those people with a muscular build. Second, it may underestimate body fat in older persons and others who have lost muscle mass. Why the difference? BMI does not measure body composition or body fat. The calculator should



therefore only be used as a general guideline to monitor trends, not as a diagnosis of anyone's health status. Evaluation by your health care provider should be performed to determine your true weight status and associated health risks. One reminder, if you are over the Army weight standard, the only authorized body composition assessment is the "tape test," in accordance with Army Regulation 600-9.

What is the health of the nation?

Overweight and obese factors contribute to the cardiovascular disease burden of the United States. Heart disease remains the number one killer of Americans, and obesity and overweight factors are known to influence the impact of this disease on the population. In some studies, even mild to moderate overweight factors are associated with a substantial elevation in risk for coronary heart disease. Over the past two decades, the number of cases of obesity alone has increased more than 50 percent. According to data from the 1988-1994 Third National Health and Nutrition Examination

Survey, overweight and obese factors affected more than one-half of the U.S. adult population (59.4 percent of men and 50.7 percent of women).

What's the aim of the Army's weight program?

The Army Weight Control Program, AR 600-9, ensures all personnel are both able to meet the physical demands of their duties under combat conditions and present a trim and fit military appearance at all times. For more information about what's required of Soldiers, visit <http://pubs.ArmyStudyGuide.com>, click on "Army Publications" and then click on "AR 600-9, Army Weight Control Program."

Ready, aim ... stick him!



Sgt. Sean Kimmons

Spc. Jason Zedhkeia, a combat medic with Medical Co. C, Troop Medical Clinic, administers an intravenous injection to an ill Soldier during sick call Tuesday at the Schofield Barracks TMC. Zedhkeia and other medics help return other Soldiers to duty by providing quality health care 6:30 - 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday for sick call. For appointments, contact the Schofield Barracks TMC at 433-8225.



All can achieve an optimal body weight

Compiled from the Hooah4Health Web site

To determine your optimal body weight, simply enter your height and gender into the optimal body weight calculator at www.hooah4health.com. Then determine if your actual weight is more than 10 percent above or below the optimal. It's best to see your primary care manager to determine if you are underweight or overweight. In conjunction with medical advice, you should revamp your exercise and diet routine, as normal body weight can greatly improve your quality of living and reduce your risk of heart and other diseases.

Taking a body weight assessment

For people who are considered obese (a body mass index greater than or equal to 30) or those who are overweight (BMI of 25 to 29.9) and have two or more risk factors, health guidelines recommend weight loss. Even small weight loss – just 10 percent of your current weight – will help to lower your risk of developing diseases associated with obesity.

Considering other risk factors

The following factors also impact your optimal body weight, so you should talk to your PCM to see if you are at an increased risk:

- high blood pressure, or hypertension
- high LDL-cholesterol, the "bad" cholesterol
- low HDL-cholesterol, the "good" cholesterol
- high triglycerides
- high blood glucose, or sugar
- family history of premature heart disease
- physical inactivity
- cigarette smoking

Your primary care manager can evaluate your BMI, waist measurement and others risk factors for heart disease.

(Editor's Note: Information for this article was provided to Hooah4Health by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.)

Army activates new MP battalion for internment ops

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — With the activation of a new active duty military police battalion and company March 21, the Army has moved into a new phase of detention operations — one that incorporates lessons learned here and elsewhere in the war on terrorism.

“The activation of this battalion serves to demonstrate the Army’s continued commitment to provide trained and ready forces in support of the global war on terror,” said Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, during the activation ceremony for the 525th Military Police Battalion and 189th Military Police Company.

The units were designed as part of an Army action plan to improve detainee handling. A total of 32 such internment/resettlement units are being added to the Army’s rolls between now and 2008.

In an interview prior to the ceremony, the 525th’s commander, Army Lt. Col. Kevin Burk, explained how the focus of these new units differs from traditional military police or corrections units.

“The difference is that we’re not performing corrections here; we’re performing detention,” Burk said. “We’re not trying to rehabilitate anybody here. That’s what they do in Army corrections. Here we are merely detaining, providing for the safe custody and control of high-risk detainees.”

Burk said there are subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle differences in handling prisoners who

“*We’re not trying to rehabilitate anybody here. That’s what they do in Army corrections. Here we are merely detaining, providing for the safe custody and control of high-risk detainees.*”

- Army Lt. Col. Kevin Burk

have been American service members (which is the mission of most Army corrections specialists) and enemy-combatant detainees.

“A military prisoner, you can communicate with him, you have a reasonable expectation that he is going to follow your orders as a guard,” Burk explained. “There is no such expectation here.

“These guards, our MPs, must be prepared to use unarmed self-defense or interpersonal communication skills to a higher degree with these high-risk detainees than they would have to with military prisoners,” he continued.

“Military prisoners generally don’t want to kill their guards. Here, they do generally want to kill the guards — and would take that opportunity if they had it.”

Hood said the detainees here are different from common criminals in that they “were terrorists, enemies of the United States of America.” At the same time, he added, officials continue to collect intelligence from detainees here.

Burk said the detainee mission today is an evolution of traditional military police skills left over from the Cold War-era “land-battle doctrine.”

In traditional doctrine, which Army officials are in the process of rewriting, MPs had four specific battlefield missions: battlefield law and order, battlefield circulation and control, area security, and enemy prisoner-of-war operations. That last section, EPW operations, has evolved with the war on terrorism.

Burk explained that MPs now have to deal with other issues such as displaced persons and securing high-risk detainees.

“It’s not so much an additional MP skill as it is an evolution of a skill set that we already were expected to perform,” he said.

The addition of active-duty MP units here will ease the burden on reserve-component MP forces.

“The reserves have been performing this mission here at Guantanamo for almost three

years,” Burk said, “but after a while ... you run out of reserve forces you can use.”

The 525th also has the added challenge of being a deployable unit.

At any point, the entire unit or elements of it could be called to perform internment or resettlement operations in any theater, explained Burk’s senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Graves. Therefore, unit members are building a great deal of flexibility into standard operating procedures and task lists.

Graves noted the unit still is in a build-up phase, but that won’t last too much longer.

“On the end-state, when we’re done and we’re stood up, we’re supposed to be able to pick everybody up and go from Point A to Point B, and do high-risk detainee operations in theaters of operation,” he said.

“Deploying could be in sets of squad, platoon, company, a headquarters, whatever a mission would need. Whether it’s during our tenure here or later on ... eventually that’s what the Army expects this unit to do as a battalion element, or even down to a platoon-sized element,” added the command sergeant major, who recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan with the 25th Infantry Division.

Graves said his experiences in Afghanistan showed him why a permanent-party unit with expertise in detention operations is a valuable addition to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“In Afghanistan, we lived through this. We built this kind of organization out of other organizations. We pulled people from different places and put

them together the best we could to do this kind of mission,” Graves explained. “So now, with the Army doing this, this model will already be put in place, and it can be sent somewhere to do that mission.”

With the exception of Burk and Graves, Soldiers assigned to the 525th MP Battalion and the attached 189th MP Company serve one-year unaccompanied tours at Guantanamo Bay.

In an interview after the ceremony, Hood said he finds notable that many of the Soldiers assigned to the new units have combat experience as military police officers in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“We have some very dedicated, very experienced young Soldiers that are coming to help form this battalion,” Hood said.

The 525th has an unusual history of activations and deactivations. The unit has been stood up three different times, all for relatively short periods: for one year in India during World War II; for four years during the Korean War, including some service in Korea; and for two years at Fort Sill, Okla., during the Vietnam era.

The unit was most recently deactivated in 1968.

Speaking at the March 22 activation ceremony, Army Lt. Col. Gregory Hager, commander of the Joint Detention Operation Group in JTF Guantanamo, said he believes this iteration of the unit won’t be so short-lived.

“If I were a betting man,” he said, “I would say that the 525th Military Police Battalion will be in active and honorable service to our nation for many years to come.”



The 23-ton Buffalo gives Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldiers and patrols a closer look at suspected improvised explosive devices.

Buffalo added to 256th arsenal

Story and Photo by
Spc Erin Robicheaux
Army News Service

CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad — A new Soldier has been initiated into the Tiger Brigade family, and has taken up residence with the 1088th Engineering Battalion.

The Buffalo is the most recent high-tech equipment now being used to help battle the war on terror — specifically to defeat improvised explosive devices.

Just like its name suggests, the 23-ton machine is made of monstrous proportions and appears to be virtually unstoppable.

The heavily armored vehicle is designed for route clearance. It gives patrols a closer look at suspected IEDs, allowing them to confirm whether an IED is present before bringing an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team onto the

scene.

1st Lt. Cecil Piazza of Company A, 1088th Eng. Bn., has played an active role in bringing the new addition to the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

“It [the Buffalo] is equipped with a 30-foot extension, called an Ironclaw, which is operated from within the vehicle,” he explained about the machine’s operations. “Once an IED is spotted by a route clearance team, it can be investigated without getting physically on the ground to look at it.”

The operator uses the Ironclaw to probe debris and dirt from around the questionable device and also has an extra set of eyes mounted on top to help decipher the identity of the object.

Working hand-in-hand with a television screen inside the vehicle, a 200X zoom video camera takes a bird’s eye view of every-

thing.

“Yesterday I was familiarizing myself with the camera, and I zoomed in on a Soldier who was working in that building over there in the motor pool,” said Spc. Chris Johnson about the building that was more than 150 yards away. “It has the capability to help the crew see clearly.”

The Buffalo seats six, with the driver and operator at the front and four remaining Soldiers behind them designated for “eyes.”

The crew is seated about 10 to 12 feet off of the ground and can access an extra set of searchlights that are maneuvered from inside the vehicle. The lights, camera and 30-foot “arm” allow them to search anywhere they feel there is a threat.

Piazza says he and his men received a course on the specifications and operations of the Buffalo. They

received classroom instruction and on-the-job training from 458th Engineers.

Also, Piazza and his men took the opportunity to go with the 458th Engineers team on missions. About 75 percent of what they learned was from actually conducting route clearance in the area of operation.

Piazza’s main unit mission has been to escort EOD.

“We know every single route in the brigade’s area of operation,” he said. “We know the trends, and we know the patterns and habits like the backs of our hands.”

Based on intelligence gathered through patrol debriefings, and information sent down to the company level, the Buffalo will be tasked to desired patrols.

Piazza and his Company A Soldiers have faith that the IED-busting equipment will continually prove to be a viable asset.



COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Friday

April 1, 2005

Fun Fest draws crowd despite looming rain



(Above) Garrett Han, 5, marvels at the multicolored baby chicks on display. (Left) Monalisa Masao, 3, takes a ride down the Slide for Life, a fund-raiser designed by Soldiers from the 84th Eng. Bn.

Story and photos by
Sharee Moore
Editor

More than 2,000 families crowded onto Desiderio Field to participate in the Family Fun Fest and ITR Travel Fair on Schofield Barracks, Saturday.

Six family readiness groups and 19 vendors sold an array of products and food to raise funds for their organizations.

"This was the eleventh year we held the event on the day before Easter," said Kathy Giannetti, Leisure Activities director. "The purpose was to have a fun outdoor activity for family members."

For the third straight year, Information, Tickets and Registration partnered with Leisure Activities to provide information on discounted travel deals, luaus, cruises and other recreational opportunities available in Hawaii and on the mainland.

Throughout the day, families won door prizes, including a Rendezvous \$500 gift certificate, good toward inter-island and mainland travel.

"With so many Soldiers returning and visiting family members, we wanted to let them know of the opportunities available during their stay in our beautiful islands," Giannetti said. "The rain cut participation by half ... there weren't long lines, but a constant slow flow throughout the event," she added.

Judging from the smiles



Alexander Van Buren, 3, reluctantly hugs Mr. Bunny during the Family Fun Fest, Saturday.

on the participants' faces, it was a toss up as to who was having the better time — kids or their parents.

Lisa Field, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Brian Field of U.S. Army Pacific's explosive ordnance disposal control team, took a break while taking pictures of son Zachary, 9 months, as he participated in his first Easter egg hunt.

"Oh [the fair] is just great for the kids! They're enjoying themselves; the entertainment is good and age-appropriate," she said while smiling.

"All the Easter stuff is pretty good because not a lot of [activities] like that are happening on base," added Sgt. Crystal Basham, 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation

Regiment, while waiting for son Ahmahd, 4, to finish coloring at the stamping station.

Easter festivities included egg hunting and an opportunity to cuddle and take pictures with Mr. Bunny. Other activities featured fund-raisers like Boy Scout Troop 171's ring toss, which earned participants a 2-liter bottle of soda, golf, basketball, and even a lollipop tree sponsored by the 325th Forward Support Bn.

The "Slide for Life," created by the 84th Engineer Bn., was one of the many fund-raisers where the line never dwindled.

Kids were strapped into the Slide for Life harness, which was attached to a rope strung between two poles — 20 feet above the ground. A "runner" gave all children the ride of their life by whizzing them across the rope to the finish point — about 25 meters away.

After staff pulled Timothy Quick, 3, from the harness, he gave a critique of the ride. With tears still in his eyes, Timothy said in a soft voice, "It was good. It wasn't scary."

He quickly added that he wouldn't do it again.

The money raised by units, vendors and the Fun Fest went to different causes.

"The funds raised go back to support Soldiers and family member activities conducted by MWR. Plus, for the [family readiness groups] and organizations that were out there, their money went back into their organizations,"

Giannetti explained.

Giannetti said the Fun Fest netted more than \$5,000, largely due to major sponsors USAA and Jackson Auto Group. The total does not include what the private vendors and FRGs earned.

Food fund-raisers like the 17th Corps Support Bn.'s catfish, potato and rice plates and the 13th Military Police Detachment's grilled pork plates funded events like a summer ball and a trip to the water park for the rear detachment.

The fair also provided an opportunity to announce the winning "Lost in Paradise" team.

Eleven teams participated in the contest to win a \$1,000 unit party at the Nehelani. The "biggest loser" — the team that lost the most weight during a two-month period — was 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery, with a total of 65.75 lbs. lost.

In addition to food and rides like the carousel, rotating helicopters, 50-foot rock wall and mega-inflatable bouncers, children enjoyed a petting zoo and horse rides. A magic show and hula performances by the Polynesian Cultural Center rounded out the festivities.

(Editor's Note: The next MWR activity will be a hike April 23, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Waimea Falls Park. Register by noon April 21 at the Shafter or TAMC gym and Kaala Rec. Center. Cost \$6-8.)



Performers from the Polynesian Cultural Center dance for a crowd of adults and children.



Anastasia Petty, 20 months, laughs during a twirl on the carousel.

(Below) Zachary Field, 9 months, participates in his first Easter egg hunt.

First Sgt. Donald Troxler, 13th MP Det., serves up pork chops seasoned by wife Marcella during a unit fund-raiser at the Family Fun Fest and Travel Fair, Saturday.



Month of April

Now — The Hawaii Army Family Action Plan is designed to improve the quality of life in the U.S. Army Hawaii community by receiving input from its community members.

You can make a difference today by submitting your issues or comments online at ww.mwrarmyhawaii.com, by e-mail to HAFAP@schofield.army.mil, or by calling 655-2744.

Issues will be discussed at the HAFAP forum April 18 – 19 at the Nehelani aboard Schofield Barracks.

Call 655-2744 for HAFAP information.

Now — Register children for spring break youth art classes offered at the Arts and Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. Classes available include “Foto Frame Fun,” Saturday, and “Paint n’ Take,” Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – noon, open to youth ages 7 – 11.

Cost is \$12 per class or \$10 for both classes. Call 655-4202 for registration and information.

Today — You can get \$2 off the normal price for vehicle safety inspections at the MMWR Auto Craft Center, today through April 15. Vehicles with non-tinted windows cost \$10 and those with tinted windows, \$15.

Call Fort Shafter at 438-9402 or Schofield Barracks at 655-9368 for more details.

Tuesday, the 5th – Make plans to join the fun at “PT in the Park” at Bennett Youth Center Field, Schofield Barracks from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. or at the Fort Shafter Gym, April 26 from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Participating children will receive custom Army PT shirts and enjoy a free continental breakfast.

This event will feature an exciting and high energy Disney Mousersize aerobic routine led by mouse instructors – a fun event for the whole family. Call 438-9336.

Wednesday, the 6th — You can select from a large variety of meats and vegetables at the Mongolian Barbecue, and chefs will grill all to your personal preferences.

The cooking begins at 5 p.m. at the Schofield Barracks Nehelani; seating will be available in Reggie’s. Cost is 65 cents for each ounce, and reservations required.

Call 655-0660 to save your seat.

Thursday the 7th — At “Spouses Night Out,” discover “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families” with Dr. Stephen Covey at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service.

Part One of this series will run from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.; books will be provided for attendees. Also, Part One will break at 6 p.m. for all to enjoy a free pizza dinner. Call 655-2736 to sign up.

Plus, mark your calendar for Part Two, scheduled Thursday, April 14.

MWR Blue Star Card holders can receive free child care from 6 - 9 p.m., by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center.

Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday before each Thursday event to make reservations.

Monday the 11th — Catch the “Steak Fry” at Reggies and get sizzling steak cooked on the grill in front of the Nehelani. This meal includes tossed salad, a baked potato, rolls and vegetables and will be served from 5 – 8 p.m.

Cost is \$11.95; call 655-0660 for additional information.

Tuesday, the 12th – Enjoy a special “Story Time”

at the Fort Shafter Library with Nyla Ching-Fujii at 3 p.m. and at the Aliamanu Gym on April 13 at 3 p.m.

Call 438-9521 for more details.

Wednesday, the 13th — The new stained glass class will kick off at the Schofield Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$40, plus supplies, for this four-session class.

Call 655-4202 to register and for more information.

Thursday, the 14th — Rules govern appropriate dress for an interview and in the workplace, and you can discover how to increase your chances for success, advancement and earning power at an upcoming workshop.

Attend “Dress for Success” at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service from 9:30 – 11: 30 a.m.

To register, call 655-2400.

Friday, the 15th — “Build Your Burger Day” is set for 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 5 – 8 p.m. at the Reggie’s Restaurant on Schofield Barracks. Patrons can select from a variety of condiments to create a burger to their liking for both lunch and dinner.

Cost is \$6.75 for this special; call 655-0660 for more information.

Tuesday, the 19th - 21st – Army Hawaii Texas Hold’em Championships will be from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Tropics, Bldg. 589, on Schofield Barracks. Army active duty, family members, Army Reserve, Army DoD civilian employees, Army National Guard and Army AAFES employees are eligible to participate; however registration is limited to the first 64 registered participants 18 and older.

Entry is free, and first and second place winners will receive trophies. Entry forms are available at Army Physical Fitness Centers and MWR facilities, and online applications can be obtained by e-mail at bautistar@schofield.army.mil.

Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than April 9.

Saturday, the 30th — The Blue Star Card Program for spouses of deployed Soldiers will end as Soldiers redeploy. Operation Iraqi Freedom cards (those with a blue background) are no longer being accepted, and Operation Enduring Freedom cards (those with a yellow background) are only valid until April 30.

The program will continue for units returning after April 30; the end date for those units will be forthcoming.

Green background cards that were issued for the 29th Brigade Combat Team and the 100th and 442nd Infantry Regiments are valid through 2006.

Visit your Installation Access Pass Office to receive and use your Blue Star Card before time runs out. Call 438-0572 or 655-1620 for more details.

Ongoing

Daily — Throughout April, select several food specials at the Tropics. Purchase any breakfast burrito, biscuit sandwich or breakfast croissant and you can add hash rounds for only 50-cents. Also, receive cinnobabies for \$1, with the purchase of any other item.

Call 655-0002 for more details.

Mondays — Catch “Sports Night” at Reggie’s from 4 – 9 p.m. While you are watching your favorite sports program on satellite, select from the special sports bar menu.

Call 655-0660 for more information.

Fridays — In the

Schofield Barracks “Salute the Troops Concert Series,” attend live local entertainment at the Tropics every Friday night in April at 8:30, with no cover charge.

Today, listen to the Kaala Boys; April 8, the Primal Tribe; and April 15, “808.”

This concert series boasts free entertainment, drink specials and food from MacGregor’s Market. Plus, visit the Tropics and register to win a sport utility vehicle.

Finalists will be selected for the SUV at each concert event, and at the concert series’ end (approximately June, date to be announced), finalists will select a random key that may start the SUV.

If your key starts the vehicle, you drive away in a new SUV.

Visit the Tropics or call 655-0002 for information.

Auto Resale — Place your car in the Automotive Resale Lot on Schofield Barracks for only \$7 a week. Simply show your government ID card, a state registration and license plate sticker, your state safety inspection paper and sticker, proof of Hawaii “no fault” insurance, and your base decal number (or power of attorney, if applicable) as the registered vehicle owner.

Call 655-9368 or visit the MWR Automotive Center on Schofield Barracks for more information.

Volunteers Wanted — Volunteer jobs are available at the Army Community Service. Not only do volunteers gain valuable job experience, but they also can earn up to 20 hours of free child care at an hourly rate.

Volunteers lend vital support to the Army family community, meet new people, enjoy flexible hours and receive awards, recognition and tons of fun.

Call 655-2398 to see how you can be involved in Army Hawaii.

The Tropics — The hours of operation at the Tropics are Mondays – Thursdays from 8 a.m. – 10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. – midnight, and Sundays from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Macgregor’s Market is open at 11 a.m. daily.

Youth 18 years and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (unless participating in an organized event) Mondays – Thursdays after 6 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays after 8 p.m.

Call 655-0002 for more details.

Strike Zone — Purchase a combo meal at the Fort Shafter Strike Zone Snack Bar and receive a card that you can peel to reveal prizes.

Call 438-6733 for more details.

Thrift Consignment — Are you moving, or do you just have too much stuff? The Hui O’ Na Wahine Thrift Shop has clothes, furniture, toys, books and more.

Make some money by putting your items on consignment during the following hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; first Saturdays at 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; or third Thursdays from 3:30 – 7 p.m.

The thrift shop is located behind Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks. Call 624-3254 for more information.


University of Oklahoma — Get your master’s of arts degree in managerial economics or public administration in about 18 months at the University of Oklahoma-Hickam temporary duty friendly campus. Call 449-6364.



HACN TV2 Schedule

April 1 - 7

Morning			
6:00	Sign On	3:33	Oahu: Aloha Begins
6:26	What’s Down the Drain	3:42	Welcome Home
6:33	Fit for Life	3:46	Volunteers
7:00	Bulletin Board	3:56	Safety Video
7:35	SHAMU: Wildlife, Grasslands	4:00	Pentagon Channel
8:00	Army News Watch		
8:30	Pentagon Channel		Evening
9:00	Pentagon Channel	6:00	Bulletin Board
10:00	ASAP	6:30	Community Focus
10:30	Bulletin Board	6:42	Welcome Home
10:32	Welcome Home to MG Olson	6:47	Army Values Respect
10:36	Safety Video	6:56	Safety Video
11:26	Dash & Grab	7:00	Welcome Home to MG Olson
11:35	Hawaii Hidden Beauty & Hidden Danger	7:06	NFL: Man’s Greatest Adventure
11:53	Welcome Home	8:00	Safety Video
12:00	Pentagon Channel	8:05	Bulletin Board
		8:50	Safety Video
		8:54	What’s Down the Drain
		9:03	Antiterrorism FP
		9:32	Oakland Army Base
		10:05	Youth Protection
		11:07	NFL: Ice Bowl
		12:20	Bulletin Board
		1:07	What’s Down the Drain
			Overnight
			Pentagon Channel



This Week at the MOVIES

SGT. SMITH THEATER

Today
The Aviator
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Saturday April 2
The Aviator
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Sunday April 3
The Passion of the Christ
7 p.m. (R)

Monday April 4
Closed

Tuesday April 5
Closed

Wednesday April 6
Closed

Thursday April 7
Son of the Mask
7 p.m. (PG)

HICKAM AFB MOVIE SCHEDULE

Today
Hitch
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Saturday April 2
Hitch
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Sunday April 3
Constantine
7 p.m. (R)

Monday April 4
Closed

Tuesday April 5
Closed

Wednesday April 6
Constantine
7 p.m. (R)

Thursday April 7
Because of Winn-Dixie
7 p.m. (PG)

Hawaii Family Action Plan conference seeks issues

By Robin Sherrod
Army Community Service

The 2005 Hawaii Army Family Action Plan Conference is the perfect occasion to voice needs for change. Scheduled for April 18-19 at the Nehelani Banquet and Conference Center, Schofield Barracks, families must send their quality of life issues to the panel before April 7.

Everyone who lives and works in the Army Hawaii community is encouraged to submit issues that will make Army Hawaii a better place to live. Organizers say the more issues received, the better the conference.

Issues may involve medical and dental, pay and benefits, family support, education, relocation or housing, and other items.

You can submit your issue one of many ways: online at www.mwrrarmyhawaii.com, by e-mail at HAFAP@schofield.army.mil or by completing an issue sheet located at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Army Community Service offices, at housing or community centers, or at most Morale, Welfare, and Recreation activities.

The HAFAP is the U.S. Army, Hawaii, installation level component of the Army Family Action Plan, or AFAP. The AFAP is a program that seeks input regarding the most significant quality of life issues that affect the well-being of Soldiers and families.

Critical issues of concern are solicited directly from Soldiers and family members, and then provided to leaders for resolution.

AFAP is a powerful tool, giving Soldiers and families a voice, and leaders real-time information, said planners. To date, AFAP results include 95 changes to legislation, 137 Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense policy change, and 153 improved programs and services.

Some local improvements include the opening of the Fort Shafter ACS, playground construction and improvement on Schofield Barracks, maintenance and upkeep of community areas, and improved



Rafi Grant

Quentin Dixon and Dennis Amethj are playing in the waiting room at CYS while their parents fill out application forms for child care.

higher education services provided to Soldiers.

Still other improvements include construction of a handicap ramp at the post office; the opening of an MWR pet kennel, an hourly care room at HMR, and the Tropics Family Entertainment Center; an increase in hourly child care slots; ongoing improvements to parking and expansion at the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic and at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Dog exercise parks are being included in new housing developments, and families will see increases in Family Child Care providers to support child care for shift workers and reserve component Soldiers.

Department of the Army improvements include a Civilian Personnel Online Web site, and an increase in both the Family Separation Allowance and the dental orthodontic cap. Further, general anesthesia for dental work is authorized, and the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance and the numbers of overseas

professional marriage and family counselors have increased.

The DA AFAP has submitted several issues from the November 2004 conference for resolution: distribution of Montgomery GI Bill to dependents, in-state tuition, modification of weight allowance tables, family member eyeglass coverage, elimination of automatic expiration of initial TriCare referral authorizations, family member access to Army e-learning programs, paternity permissive temporary duty, funding for Reserve component reunion and marriage enrichment classes, and availability for refractive eye surgery.

Continued input from community-minded individuals, based on their experience and knowledge, leads to new programs, improved services and policy and legislative changes that make a real difference in the Army's well-being.

For more details, call 655-2744 for additional information regarding the HAFAP conference.



Joy Boisselle

Lyman Community Center electrician Randy Salsedo replaces wiring in one of the community's vacant homes. With nearly 1,000 vacant homes throughout U.S. Army Hawaii, vacant quarters maintenance is an Army Hawaii family housing top priority.

Preventing child abuse is everyone's responsibility

By Rafi Grant
Contributing Writer

Since a Presidential Proclamation in 1983, the month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Its aim is to give attention to the weakest in our society, by raising awareness and arming citizens with the tools to help prevent child abuse from ever happening.



What are the statistics?

In these times of uncertainty, coping with the needs of a child can sometimes be overwhelming — even here at the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, where families are often filled with stress and unprecedented challenges from recurring and extended deployments.

According to the European Command Web site, more than three million cases of abuse and/or neglect are reported in the United States every year. This shocking number, however, might only be the tip of the iceberg.

“We have to consider that not all cases are reported and some might only come to light after tragedy strikes,” a consultant at Army One Source said.

What is child abuse?

The widely used term of “abuse” can be broken down into four subgroups: physical abuse, child neglect, emotional abuse and sexual abuse.

Physical abuse could be punching, beating, kicking or otherwise harming a child, though the abuse might not have been intended to hurt the child. Those in a position of power or authority may just be intending to discipline, not to actually physically punish or abuse a child.

Child neglect, on the other hand, is characterized by the failure to provide for the basic needs of a child, physically as well as emotionally; a child is emotionally abused when he or she suffers psychological, verbal and/or mental mistreatment; and sexual abuse, the fourth subgroup, includes inappropriate touching and fondling, rape, or involving children in child pornography.

Unfortunately, statistics suggest that most child abuse occurs within a home environment amongst people the child knows and trusts.

Further, according to Murray A. Straus (cited by Dr. Elisabeth Kandel Englander in her book *Understanding Violence*), parents — especially single parents — are at a higher risk for abusing their children.

What is being done to prevent child abuse?

The best prevention for child abuse is community awareness, education and intervention, according to Hilda H. Borja, family advocacy program manager and social worker at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service office. Therefore, a vast array of resources, especially in the military community, aids parents, caregivers and family members.

“We offer a wide range of different classes and courses to enhance the parents’ abilities,” she explained.

ACS programs include active parenting classes, new parent basic training, anger and stress solution classes, and support groups such as the Single Parent Network.

Whom does someone contact in cases of child abuse?

If anyone suspects child abuse is occurring in a family, the first officials to contact are the military police at 655-7114.

“People are often reluctant to call the MPs immediately. In these cases, ACS can answer questions and provide information referrals,” Borja explained.

Speaking up for children in the community is actually a critical responsibility shared by parents, teachers, coaches, religious leaders, government officials and concerned citizens and neighbors.

Children, youth and teenagers depend on adults to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of abuse and to take action to end mistreatment.

Indeed, as President George W. Bush proclaimed, “By working together, we can put hope in our children's hearts and ensure healthy and safe lives for all our children.”

Xtreme teens rival ‘Fear Factor’

Story and Photos by
Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

If climbing a greased pole to retrieve a prize at the top or bobbing for golf balls in a bloody pool of dead fish sounds like a scene from television’s popular show “Fear Factor,” think again.

Competitors faced these challenges and more at the first-ever Tropics Extreme Teen Challenge, March 23. Youth, ages 12 to 17, competed in four events, and the overall winner received a \$50 grand prize.

According to Margie Millett, Tropics teen and youth program manager, the challenge resulted from surveys conducted among Tropics teen patrons.

“From our survey, we found that teens wanted ‘extreme’ activities like the TV show, ‘Fear Factor,’” she explained. “We designed this contest to challenge our teens and help to promote our other community events as well.”

Robert Marsh, father of 14-year-old competitor Richard, said, “I am here for moral support. I think this kind of program is great, and it’s a good outlet for a young man’s energy in a safe and clean environment.”

For some, describing a “clean environment” could be debatable. As the challenge progressed, events like the spam sculpting and spam eating contest, plus the climb-up-a-much-greased pole (for the \$20 bill incentive awaiting at the top) contest defied what some describe as clean.

Especially the most eagerly awaited event — bobbing for golf balls in the dead fish tank, was delightfully messy for the teenage contestants.

Competitors TC Kirkendall, 13, and Richard Marsh had winning on their minds before the challenge started.

“I am here to win,” said Marsh. “I come to the Tropics a lot to play video games and just hang out.”

Kirkendall echoed Marsh’s confident words and added, somewhat ominously, “I like Spam.”

The challenge began with the spam sculpting contest. For five minutes, competitors struggled to create a masterpiece from the less-than-cooperative block of meat.

Chris Stallings, 14, won the event by producing something loosely resembling a palm tree.

After playing with the spam, contestants then competed in a fastest-finish spam eating contest. Prior to the competition, contestants had deemed this event as the easiest of the four. In reality, faced with consuming a much-handled 12-ounce portion of spam, many of the teens bowed out after just one bite.

Richard Marsh, Matthew Roberts, 17, and Corey Wardlow, 15, valiantly savored every bite, but Wardlow eventually claimed the title as spam-eating champion.

On the other hand, teens accurately predicted that the greased pole climbing contest would be the day’s biggest challenge. Contestants expended a large amount of energy and sweat, coupled with groans and grunts, all to no avail.

First time out, none of the contestants could negotiate the challenge. Given a second try, George Sevilla, 15, negotiated the obstacle and snatched the prize money.

In the close competition, the final event decided the overall winner. A plastic container loaded with dead fish, spam pieces, golf balls and



Matthew Roberts goes down for the count as he competes in the “Bobbing for Golf Balls in the Dead Fish Tank” event of the Extreme Teen Challenge. Roberts was the eventual Challenge champion taking home a \$50 grand prize.



“Just one more bite” could be what participants in the Tropics Extreme Teen Challenge were thinking during the Spam Eating Contest.

other unidentifiable debris awaited brave contestants. The teen who could retrieve the most golf balls in this timed event would be the overall winner.

Fish parts went flying along with bloody water as contestants tried a variety of techniques to secure the golf balls. A favorite position was the “full body submersion” technique. Contestants lowered their face and upper body into the tub using just their feet for balance.

The eventual winner of the challenge and overall Extreme Teen was Matthew Roberts whose “one-arm-for-balance technique” helped him snag six golf balls in

30 seconds.

“This was pretty fun,” Roberts said, upon leaving the day wetter, richer and with bragging rights as the Extreme champion. “I came for the money and didn’t care what I had to do to get it,” he exclaimed.

The competition was a great success, according to all the teen participants, and Millett said that future events will expand on the day’s successes and offer even more challenges and prizes for extreme competitors.

(Editor’s Note: For information on teen programs and events at the Tropics, contact Margie Millett at 655-0002.)



Richard Marsh has his eyes on the \$20 prize during the Greased Pole Climbing Contest held during the Extreme Teen Challenge at the Tropics March 23.

‘Couch Potato’ Biathlon draws few athletes



By Sharee Moore
Editor

Four athletes battled for first during the “Buns on the Run Couch Potato Biathlon” at Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks, March 22 – 23.

Day one of the competition began with 45 minutes of furious pedaling on the cardio bike, and day two jumped off with a 30-minute sprint on the treadmill. A fitness specialist logged each competitor’s miles and tallied the results.

Since other “couch potatoes” bowed out of the race,

each of the four competitors earned first place in their divisions.

Jose Garcia kicked in high gear to a 16.19-mile finish on the bike and 4.15 mile treadmill; Donnie Judy pedaled for 12 bike miles and ran 3.04 treadmill miles; Adam Charney rode 16.04 bike miles and completed 4.36 miles on foot; and Maribel Garcia, representing the women, pedaled for 11.26 miles and ran 2.56 for a total of 13.82 miles in the biathlon.

Fitness staff awarded T-shirts to all the participants.

DPW, 84th Engineers power to an Army victory

By Debbie Wyllie
Directorate of Public Works

FORD ISLAND — The Directorate of Public Works, or DPW, once again brought victory to the Army with its entry at the 10th Annual Hawaiian Electric Electron Marathon competition.

DPW general engineer Keith Yamanaka coordinated Army representation, car design and construction. He also trained driver Spc. Jose “Juan Montoya” Maldonado of the 84th Engineer Battalion.

The hotly contested 10-lap speed event held here March 19 pitted the Army’s single entry against one Air Force, two Marine Corps and two Navy vehicles.

The Army started second on the pole and opened a commanding 10-second lead on the first lap. However, the Navy passed the Army under a yel-

low caution.

Maldonado regained the lead, but on a second yellow caution, the Navy again passed the Army and went on to cross the finish line first.

Governing officials cited several infractions and diplomatically declared a joint Army–Navy victory.

Despite just having returned from Iraq, Maldonado exhibited the energy and dedication to not only drive, but also repair, test and make critical adjustments to his vehicle.

His driving and mechanical skills were instrumental to the joint victory, said Yamanaka.

After the interservice race, a one-hour endurance race pitted 27 high schools across the state. These teams designed and built their own vehicles and were judged on performance, construction, safety and documentation.

Wailua High School captured both “Best of Show” (overall) and “Best Vehicle Performance” (race) winner.

The Hawaiian Electric Company, the State of Hawaii’s Department of Education and the U.S. Navy sponsored this year’s Electron Marathon.

Other sponsorship partners included Hawaiian Electric Light Company, Maui Electric Company, the U.S. Department of Energy, and Young Brothers, Ltd.

HECO organizes the Electron Marathons to promote and raise public awareness of alternative clean fuel vehicles and to give Hawaii’s youth hands-on experience with engineering and energy conservation.

The Electron Marathon will be broadcast on KITV Channel 4 at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, and at noon on Sunday, April 24.



Courtesy photo

(Above and below) Maldonado leads in the fifth lap of the Electron Marathon.



Modesto Cordero



Courtesy photo

Spc. Jose “Juan Montoya” Maldonado of the 84th Eng. Bn. prepares for takeoff at the 10th Annual Hawaiian Electric Electron Marathon competition.

Army takes medals in U.S. Boxing Nationals

By Tim Hipps
Army News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – A young and inexperienced squad exhibited the All-Army boxing team’s best performance in five years at the 2005 U.S. Amateur Boxing National Championships, March 15 - 19 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center here.

Although the Soldiers didn’t produce any national champions, All-Army Coach Basheer Abdullah said they exceeded his expectations.

Spc. Christina Brown won a silver medal in the women’s 165-pound weight class. Staff Sgt. Christopher Downs and 1st Lt. Boyd Melson won bronze medals in the men’s 178- and 152-pound divisions respectively.

All told, six Soldiers reached the quarterfinals, including Sgt. Joe Guzman (201 pounds) and Spc. David Gallegos (141 pounds), both of Fort Carson, Colo., and Sgt. Lavalle Viridiana (119 pounds) of Fort Myers, Va.

Brown, a 6-foot, 3-inch, multisport athlete stationed at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., lost her gold medal bout to Baltimore’s Franchon Crews, when the referee stopped the contest 67 seconds into the first round.

The much shorter and stockier Crews attacked from the opening bell and tallied more than 15 points in the opening minute.

“I was shocked,” Brown, 24, said of Crews’ aggressiveness. “I didn’t think [her punches] were landing to the point where she was scoring that much.”

Abdullah said Brown lacks



Staff Sgt. Christopher Downs, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., defeated Petty Officer 2nd Class Deano Jenkins after the fight was called 46 seconds into the second round at the All-Armed Forces Boxing Championship at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. He later took a bronze medal at the U.S. Amateur Boxing National Championships in March.

the experience needed to handle such a brawler.

“Brown doesn’t have the experience to deal with that type of boxer yet,” he said. “We tried to catch the girl coming in with a good strong right hand, but the girl is physical.”

Downs, 30, stationed at Hawaii’s Schofield Barracks, dropped a 21-12 decision to

Brandon Gonzalez of San Jose, Calif., in the semifinals.

Downs was allowed by supervisors of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Iraq, to attend the All-Army boxing camp and compete in the 2005 Armed Forces Championships and U.S. National Championships.

Downs qualified for a berth in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program by winning an Armed Forces crown. His performance here solidified the selection, Abdullah said.

Downs is 6 feet, 4 inches tall but failed to use his reach advantage against Gonzalez, who threw much quicker punches. His Army team-

mates repeatedly yelled at him to “keep it long, keep it long,” but he kept going inside and getting scored upon.

“I don’t feel like I showed up tonight,” Downs said after climbing from the ring. “It wasn’t that I couldn’t see the punches; I was just a little sluggish.”

Melson, 23, a WCAP mem-

ber and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., lost 15-10 in the 152-pound semis to Brooklyn’s Daniel Jacobs.

Melson, a southpaw, struggled throughout the tournament with an injured left hand but refused to use it as an excuse. He entered the final round trailing by five points and failed to reduce the deficit.

“I should’ve turned to my aggression earlier, but it was tough because he knew only to look out for my one hand,” said Melson, who spent half of the past year at the Officer Basic Course.

Abdullah praised the All-Army boxers for their performances.

“These athletes definitely exceeded my expectations,” he said. “I thought I was going to get maybe one or two [boxers] into the semis. That would’ve been a blessing.”

“...They accepted the challenge, dug in deep, and we advanced six into the quarters. And then we advanced three into the semis,” he continued.

Because most members of last year’s All-Army boxing team have joined the professional ranks, retired from the sport or left the military, this contest netted the most inexperienced team. Abdullah has taken to the national championships in several years.

“We’ve got a long way to go,” Abdullah said. “Right now we’re winning off a lot of heart.”

(Editor’s Note: Tim Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.)

Sports Briefs

Month of April

Now — The Morale, Welfare and Recreation department is seeking teams from units, sections or directorates to participate in intramural bowling in the Fort Shafter area.

Call 438-6733 to register or for more information.

Now — Youth Sports is looking for volunteer coaches for basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, flag football and cheerleading.

Call AMR at 836-1923, Fort Shafter at 438-9336, or Schofield Barracks at 655-6465 to volunteer your services.

Ending Friday, the 8th — The Hawaii Youth Track and Field Program is open to youth born any year from 1987 – 1996. Registration will be ongoing through April 8, and the tentative start date is April 13.

Cost is \$40 and includes team uniform, qualified coaching and a USA Track and Field membership card.

For more information, contact your area sports director at 655-6465, 438-9336, 836-1923 or 655-0883.

Starting Saturday, the 9th — Watch the stars of Hawaii Championship Wrestling perform at the Tropics, Schofield

Barracks both on April 9 and 23. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7 p.m.

A small fee will be collected at the door. Call 655-5698 or 655-0002 for more information.

Starting Tuesday, the 12th — Youth born anytime from 1989 – 2000 can register for Youth Sports League Soccer any day from April 12 through May 3. Practice begins approximately May 30, and the season will run from June 25 – Aug. 25.

Cost is \$40 to register. For more information, contact your area sports director at any of the following numbers: 655-6465, 438-9336, 836-1923 or 655-0883.

Starting Tuesday, the 12th — Youth born anytime from 1989 – 2000 can register for the Youth Soccer Clinic any day from April 12 – May 3. The clinic will be held Wednesday, May 25, at the Aliamanu Military Reservation and May 27 at Schofield Barracks.

Cost is \$12 and includes an event T-shirt.

For more details, contact your area sports director at any of the following numbers: 655-6465, 438-9336, 836-1923 or 655-0883.

Ending Friday, the 22nd — You can participate in this year’s intramural softball season, which will run May 2 – Aug. 26.

Applications are now available at the USAG-HI Sports Office or Martinez Physical Fitness Center.

Register by April 22; call 655-0856 or 655-0101 for more information.

Ongoing

Sundays —If you want to learn the game of golf, visit the Leilehua Golf Course driving range for the free Ladies Golf Clinic, the first Sunday of every month from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Call 655-4653 to sign-up or for more details.

Tuesdays and Thursdays — Burn calories during the water exercise class in Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, from 11 a.m. – noon. Cost is \$2 per class, or patrons can purchase a punch card for \$15 (10 classes).

Call 655-9698 to register or for more details.

Learn to Swim — The summer “Learn to Swim” program will take participants level by level from their first step into the water to a level of ease and proficiency with standard swimming skills.

Registration for Level I (“Introduction to Water Skills”) is now underway at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks. Cost is

\$40 for nine, 45-minute classes; however, a multi-child discount is offered.

Registration is first-come, first-served; call 655-9698 for more information.

The Tripler, Helemano and Aliamanu pools will also hold Level I and other courses; registration in these locations begins

in June. Call your nearest pool.

Spinning — Spinning is the latest group exercise class available at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks. Participants use deluxe “Revmaster” stationary bikes guided by certified instructors, and guided imagery to “climb

hills,” sprint or take in the “scenery” during workouts.

Be part of the action; call 655-8007.

Golf Driving Range — The range at Leilehua Golf Course is now open until 9:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Call 655-4653 for details.